

# The Health Care Monitor

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### HBA Basic Course March 2002

A TRICARE basic course is scheduled for March 27-29 at the Ft. Lewis golf course. Students can register soon at the following website: <http://tricarenw.mamc.amedd.army.mil/conf/basic/default.htm>.

## TRICARE Northwest

### Common Access Cards in use locally

#### Washington State:

Some service-members here are using their new **Common Access Cards** which replaced their expired military ID Card. Active Duty service-members and Reserve and National Guard Units now on Active Duty were among the first group to get the new "smart" cards.

Source: **American Forces Press Service**

**DOD expects CAC's, or what is commonly referred to as "smart cards," will (in a few years) replace the current ID card for all active duty military members, Selected Reserve**

**personnel, DOD civilian employees and eligible contractors.**

DOD began issuing the cards in October, Pentagon officials said.

"CACs" will eventually allow users access to secure areas, permit entry into DOD computer networks and serve as the authentication token for DOD's computerized public key infrastructure.

The CACs feature barcoding, a magnetic strip and, for the first time, an embedded integrated circuit chip, said Bernard Rostker, under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"We'll use the card for access to buildings and computer systems, and it can facilitate electronic commerce, allowances,

mess hall access and the like," he said. As new applications come on line, he added, DOD will have the wherewithal to allow its personnel to gain access to the various systems.

The deployment of the card moves DOD closer to a significant security milestone, said Paul Brubaker, deputy chief information officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence.

"The smart card will give us the capability to digitally sign documents, transactions, orders and a lot of other implements we use to do business," he said. The cards also give DOD the capability to encrypt and thus privately exchange sensitive information over open networks.

Initially, the cards will contain identification and security information. Later versions will also hold such service member information as inoculations, medical and dental records, finance allotments and other data.

**DOD does not plan to convert the ID cards of family members, retirees, members of the Inactive Guard and Inactive Ready Reserve or disabled veterans, because no requirement has been identified to justify the expense, DOD officials said.**

For more information on the common-access card visit [www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard). (SEE PAGE 6 for Sample).

## Just what the doctor ordered: club helps NAS medical commands

Lt. Dan Patterson, was presented a chain saw by Oak Leaf Club members (identified below). The saw will be used for ASTC community service projects. (U.S. Navy Photos)



By Sally Lee  
Oak Leaf Club Volunteer

When we feel sick or under-the-weather, Navy Medicine is ready to help. However, many of the nice-to-have items that make a stay at the hospital pleasant, just are not in the Navy Supply System. The Charities Committee of the Oak Leaf Club helps fill in the gap.

Through the dedicated efforts of the Oak Leaf members, they were able to raise enough funds over the past year to purchase and donate several wished-for items to the Dental Clinic, Aviation Survival Training Center (ASTC), and the Naval Hospital. To the Dental Clinic, a microwave oven and a camera were do-

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NAS Whidbey Island Dental Clinic OIC, CDR G. Bingham, presented microwave and camera by Oak Leaf Club members (left to right) Sally Lee, Gwen Patterson and Rita Sabins.

## Naval Hospital Bremerton local news



Branch Medical Clinic Bangor's staff provide immunizations for naval reservists called to active duty in support Operation Noble Eagle. (U.S. Navy photos by PH3 Rachel Bonilla).



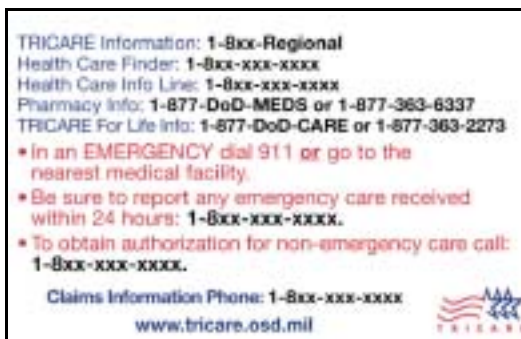
Five-Star Customer Service Award employee for October was Petty Officer 2nd Class Nestor Dearce who is congratulated by Capt. Christine Hunter commanding officer, Naval Hospital Bremerton.



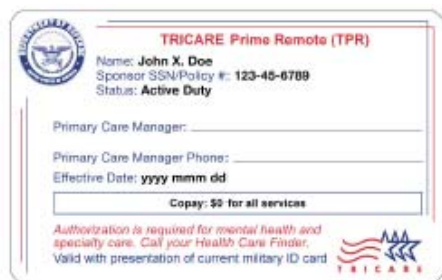
Capt. Christine Hunter, commanding officer of Naval Hospital Bremerton, presents Lt. Cmdr. Anne Haley, Nursing Corps, with her Five-Star Customer Service Award in November. Haley is the Resolve Through Sharing Coordinator at Naval Hospital Bremerton. (U. S. Navy Photos by JO1(SW) Stacy Moore)



## New look for TRICARE health plan cards



Each TRICARE health plan will have a card with a "new" look with the exception of TRICARE For Life. When these "new" cards will begin to be disseminated will be in future news articles.



**TRICARE  
Prime Re-  
mote  
New  
"draft"  
card**



## Madigan will host March 2002 medical conference

**Madigan Army Medical Center** will host its 18<sup>th</sup> annual Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation conference March 26-29, 2002 in Tacoma, Washington at the Sheraton Hotel. The conference is sponsored by the Office of The Surgeon General, U.S. Army. Several nationally renowned experts will speak on chronic pain management (**including alternative and complementary medicine**), other topics include Musculoskeletal / Sports Medicine, Pediatric and adult electrodiagnosis, Bioterrorism, and issues unique to Psychiatrists and other Neuromusculoskeletal health care providers.

The conference is for Psychiatrists and physicians in related specialties; however, all medical professionals interested in these topics are invited to attend.

The course program and registration information for the conference will be published on the web in January 2002 at [www.hjf.org](http://www.hjf.org). Approximately 25 category 1 CME will be provided. For interim information please contact Shashi Kumar, MD or our secretary Shirley Birdson at (253)-968-2020 (EMAIL: [shirley.birdsong@nw.amedd.army.mil](mailto:shirley.birdsong@nw.amedd.army.mil)).

## NHB holds Chem-Bio threat drill



Capt. Hank Nakahara, MC, reviews symptoms with patient Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class David Adams during Naval Hospital Bremerton's recent drill. (U.S. Navy Photo by JOC Tim Adams)



Cmdr. James Thralls checks the status board in the Emergency Operations Center while Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Eusebio Bawden updates information called in by the various departments involved in the drill. (U.S. Navy Photo by Judith Robertson)





## Local students get close-up view of medical careers

Story and Photos by:  
PH3 Rachel Bonilla  
Naval Hospital Bremerton  
Public Affairs Office

**NAVAL HOSPITAL BREMERTON** -- For 11 high school juniors and seniors in the Peninsula School District November 15 was a day to experience and explore careers in various medical fields by shadowing professionals at Naval Hospital Bremerton. Students from three high schools in the Gig Harbor area were eager to work with Navy healthcare providers, from corpsmen and technicians to doctors and nurses, to get a taste of the career of their choice.

Bill Simons, Career Counselor at Henderson Bay High School and member of the District Career Committee, in partnership with Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce, sponsors this annual event open to juniors and seniors from Henderson Bay, Gig Harbor and

Peninsula High Schools. Students are given three choices and must

don't want to do. And that serves a good purpose, too. It saves time and

and... I want to get into the medical field no matter what I do."

For Angelina Spring this experience was just one of many she's been involved with in the medical field. Spring has spent a great deal of time with nurses and doctors while undergoing Chemotherapy treatments.

"I got interested in nursing going through my cancer treatment. I know that nursing is what I want to do," said Spring. "I want to be a Hematology/Oncology nurse practitioner. I am hoping to attend the University of Washington or Pacific Lutheran University after getting my Associates of Arts at a community college."

"This type of exposure is very beneficial for our students," Simons said. "We appreciate the opportunities this partnership provides them."



The 16-year-olds, from Gig Harbor High School, participate in a job shadow day at Naval Hospital Bremerton. (U.S. Navy Photo)

write a paragraph on why they would like to experience each career they choose and what they hope to accomplish by shadowing in that field for the day.

"We believe it provides a real look at what someone actually does in an average day in their career field," says Simons. "It gives them a close look at a career so they can see what they

money for them in their preparation for their career."

Laken Durkee, a student at Gig Harbor High School, shadowed x-ray technicians and found they do a lot more than just take x-rays. "You aren't just stuck doing tech work, you can do diagnostic ultrasounds and MRIs, too," said Durkee. "I want to go into a program with this radiology

## Prime travel entitlement changes

Mark L. Everett, LCDR,  
USCG Health Care Operations TRICARE NW, OLA

The JFTR changes to support the FY01 NDAA Prime travel entitlement have been approved by the Director, Per

Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance.

The JFTR change (number 182) will be dated Feb 1, '02 but the effective date is retroactive to Oct. 30, '00. The target for implementation is Feb. 15, '02

I strongly encourage the MTF POCs (or their representatives) to work with their services in development of these processes/procedures.

There will be a news release from TMA leadership sometime in the future.

### Education:

I recommend that you contact your respective beneficiaries and commands as soon as possible to inform them that the entitlement is coming soon

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# TRICARE announces new demonstration project to provide enhanced family benefits for mobilized reservists



Source: **TRICARE Management Activity**

Under the demonstration, three things are improved for family members.

**First**, the annual deductible was waived for family members who use TRICARE Standard or Extra.

The deductibles were waived to avoid undue financial hardship for families who may have already paid an annual deductible under their health insurance provided by their non-military employer.

**Second**, family members who receive care from "participating" or "non-participating" providers pay the same amount: 20 percent of the allowable charge.

Family members are not legally responsible for the balance above the TRICARE allowable charge that some non-participating providers charge. TRICARE will pay up to 15 percent above the TRICARE allowable charge for eligible Reserve Component families.

**Third**, the requirement to obtain non-emergency inpatient care from a military treatment facility was waived. This waiver allows continuity of health care by the families' civilian provider. Family members, however, are not prevented from using military treatment facilities and are encouraged to inquire about local military facility specialty capabilities.

*Persons who are covered by other health insurance (such as a civilian employer's health plan) should be aware that TRICARE pays after those plans have made their payments for health care services.* The only time TRICARE is not second payer is when Medicaid (a public assistance program) is involved, or if the patient has a health care insurance policy that is specifically designated as a TRICARE supplemental policy. In those cases, TRICARE pays before the other insurance.

**TRICARE Standard users should make sure their provider has been certified by the**

**regional TRICARE contractor as an authorized provider of care for TRICARE patients (check with the provider, or with the regional TRICARE contractor).**

If he/she receives services from a provider who is not authorized, the cost of services -- even though they might otherwise be covered by the program -- will not be shared by the government.

Activated Reserve and Guard members should update their information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database by visiting their local military ID card issuing facility. They should bring proper documentation to update their family file, such as a marriage certificate, birth certificate or divorce decree. Incorrect information can result in delayed claims processing, problems with the use of retail pharmacies and the National Mail Order Pharmacy benefit, and other difficulties.

Activated Reservists or National Guard members

may get more information about their family's TRICARE Standard benefits from the TRICARE Standard Handbook. The handbooks are available at the nearest uniformed services hospital or clinic, or any TRICARE service center.

All active duty service members are provided with dental benefits at no cost through military dental treatment facilities.

Reservists and National Guard members called to active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days who are enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP), will have their individual coverage discontinued during their period of active duty. They are eligible for dental care in military treatment facilities. In addition, activated reservists whose family members are not currently enrolled in the TDP may enroll them for the period of time the member is on active duty. Also, TDP-enrolled family members of

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**(targeted implementation date is Jan 15, '02)** and complete any additional education as necessary.

I also recommend that if you have not already issued imple-

mentation guidance that you do so immediately.

### Possible NMA Provision?

There was no non-medical attendant (NMA) provision included in the original FY01

authorization. However, there is a possibility that an NMA provision will appear in the FY02 NDAA.

We can do nothing until legislation is approved/signed by the President.

Please contact me if you have questions (253) 968-3426.

## Seattle Coast Guard awards Team Commendation

The Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Integrated Support Command (ISC) Seattle awarded the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation to 17 Region 11 DoD providers, two from TRICARE Northwest Office of the Lead Agent, six from Madigan Army Medical Center, and nine from Naval Hospital Bremerton and Naval Branch Medical Clinic Everett. The citation recognized the selfless service and team-

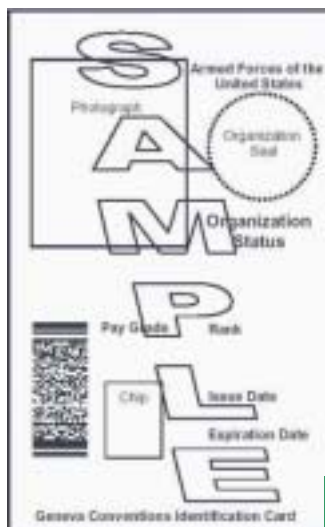
work demonstrated by these providers while serving in the ISC Seattle clinic covering a critical shortage of Coast Guard primary care providers during the summer 2001 transfer season. The Lead Agent Medical Director provided coordination of the regional professional staff to cover this USCG underlap. The Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation ribbon accompanies the citation.

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nated for use by the clinic staff. ASTC received a chain saw to aid them in cutting firewood as part of an ongoing community service project. The Naval Hospital received sixteen small bead mazes to provide distraction for patients waiting in exam rooms. The Charities Committee Chairwoman, Sally Lee, and the hospital CO's wife, Diana Jensen, presented the bead mazes last Thursday to the CO of the Naval Hospital. As the wife of one of NAS Whidbey's pediatricians, Mrs. Lee may be accused of having a

particular interest in providing items oriented towards making a visit to the hospital more enjoyable for children. However, the hospital commander, Capt. Donald Jensen, noted that many of the young-at-heart adult patients will greatly enjoy the mazes while awaiting their doctor's arrival. The Oak Leaf Club members are spouses of Medical, Dental, Nurse and Medical Service Corps officers. In addition to supporting the material needs of the medical commands, they sponsor an annual Ceiling Art Party in the spring which brightens the hospital's

### Sample DOD Common Access Card



FRONT Side



BACK Side

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activated reservists will receive the same 60 percent discount off their TDP monthly premium payment as active duty family members.